

August 19, 2016

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97205

I have lived in Portland for 75 years, and I used to work in the paramedical field. The EPA plan for purifying the Willamette River is based on obsolete data that is not relevant to the situation today. Recent tissue analysis of fish from the river shows that more than a third of the toxins have already filtered out by natural processes. Excessive dredging that could re-contaminate the river does not sound like a good idea, to say the least, and I'm not exactly sure why the EPA is unable to recognize this.

The proposal is projected to cost over a billion dollars, which Portland residents will have to fund. I am on a fixed income, so naturally, life would be more difficult if my taxes were raised; I would have to adjust my budget accordingly. The intense dredging will also have an economic impact. Local businesses always have a hard time when there is heavy construction going on around them. I probably wouldn't go the waterfront while the river was being torn up, and I imagine other potential customers would feel the same way. There is a reason no other area has been subject to such an invasive purification project. The Willamette cleanup plan is excessively dramatic, and the EPA should ask the people of Portland to help them come up with a more responsible approach.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR 97230